CGMS-XXXIII
WMO WP-15
Prepared by WMO
Agenda item: F.5

WMO CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS ON HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ON SATELLITE MATTERS

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

To inform CGMS Members of the relevant results of the fifth session of the WMO Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters.

ACTION PROPOSED

CGMS Members to note the deliberations and results of the fifth session of the WMO Executive Council Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters and comment as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

Introduction

1. The fifth session of the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM-5) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, 24-25 January 2005 and the relevant results of that meeting are contained in this document. Other results can also be found in WMO WP-6.

2. CM-5 reviewed a summary of activities within the WMO Space Programme since 1 January 2004, the official date for the start of activities for the new, crosscutting major Programme. It described the status of the WMO Space Programme Trust Fund and the staffing in the WMO Space Programme Office. It also summarized activities during 2004 by the WMO Space Programme Office towards meeting the goals of the Implementation Plan. Contained within the description of activities was a list of new responsibilities assigned to the WMO Space Programme by CBS, CGMS, EUMETSAT's Climate Monitoring SAF, GCOS, JCOMM, IGeoLab and others.

3. CM-5 recalled that a WMO Space Programme Trust Fund had been created to enable space agencies to provide financial support. To date, this had allowed the WMO Space Programme to lead detailed discussions in CGMS with regard to global contingency planning, as well as in the preparation of the WMO-Space Programme Implementation Plan. Additionally, the Trust Fund assisted in the development of the WMO White Paper for the International Geostationary (IGeoLab) concept, including the two test proposals, i.e., GIFTS and GOMAS. Finally, the Trust Fund assisted in the development of a WMO Space Programme strategy on an approach to include the space-component of the integrated WMO global observing system as a core contributor to the space-component of GEOSS.

4. CM-5 noted that EUMETSAT had made a substantial contribution to the WMO Space Programme Trust in 2004 similar to that made in 2003 (50,000 Euros per year or approximately CHF 78,000). Since CM-5, NOAA has donated US$ 50,000 to the WMO Space Programme Trust Fund as well as EUMETSAT (50,000 Euros).

5. CM-5 noted that the Permanent Representative of China with WMO had nominated Dr Liu Jian, Associate Professor at China's National Satellite Meteorological Center for consideration as a senior seconded expert. Dr Liu Jian started work in the Space Programme Office in mid-2005. Since CM-5, Mr Jérôme Lafeuille has been seconded by Météo-France to the WMO Space Programme Office for a one year period. Additionally, Switzerland provided Dr Natalia Archinard to assist the Director of the WMO Space Programme. Dr Archinaud is assisting in the preparation of the technical document "Status of the Availability and use of Satellite Data and Products by WMO Members, 2005" (SP-2). Finally, Mr Yoshiro Tanaka, Junior Professional Officer in the WMO Space Programme Office returned to Japan in June 2005.

6. CM-5 recalled that the WMO Space Programme Implementation Plan contained a description of an Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service (IGDDS). A CGMS/WMO Regional ATOVS Retransmission Service (RARS) workshop had been held on 16-17 December 2004 and hosted by EUMETSAT at its Headquarters in Darmstadt, Germany to discuss possibilities towards the development of Regional ATOVS Retransmission Services (RARS) and IGDDS.

7. Based on the very positive experience of the RARS workshop, it was recommended that the IGDDS project be refined within the WMO Space Programme Implementation Plan to include the objective of coordinating and facilitating the establishment of a global network of Regional ATOVS Re-transmission Systems, with a particular focus on:

- inter-regional data exchange;
- standardization in the areas of:
  - product processing software usage;
  - product formats;

  - quality-tagging of data;
  - service management.
- ensuring consistency with the IGDDS concept.

8. It was anticipated that this objective will be achieved through the organization of RARS Workshops, together with technical coordination activities. The session noted that JMA was already preparing to support the establishment of a RARS in the Asia-Pacific area with service to start as soon as possible.

9. CM-5 was informed of participation by several space agencies and WMO Members to provide ATOVS data from selected HRPT stations including ones in the Russian Federation (Moscow for the European part of the Russian Federation and Novosibirsk in Siberia), India (Delhi) and the People's Republic of China (Beijing, Guangzhou and Urumqi, and possibly Lhasa) and others expressed an interest to participate.

10. CM-5 deeply appreciated the statement by the People's Republic of China that its national data dissemination service utilizing DVB technology could support an Asia-Pacific RARS. China also confirmed its willingness to continue participation in the further discussions for the Asia-Pacific RARS.

11. CM-5 was of the opinion that the RARS approach was revolution in the history of satellites in which there was a strong emphasis on one of the critical issues with satellite technology, namely increasing availability and use of the data. The RARS approach was entirely consistent with the new WMO model for satellite data dissemination in which there was a balance between a limited number of coordinated ground stations coupled with wide availability of data and products. The session strongly encouraged the WMO Space Programme to continue it active role to establish RARS and an IGDDS. Participation by WMO in the development phases for the various regional implementations was recommended in order to ensure consistency and compatibility when establishing inter-regional data exchanges, and coherence with IGDDS.

12. CM-5 was informed of activities within the WMO Space Programme in support of the WMO Strategy for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology. In particular, CM-5 was informed of progress in the Virtual Laboratory for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology (VL) and its associated VL Focus Group (VLFG).

13. CM-5 noted that in the expectation that the notebook experiment in Costa Rica was successful, in late 2006 the VLFG and WMO planned to have a period of 3 to 4 days when all the VL Centres of Excellence would simultaneously (on the same day at least) provide online training sessions to the NHMSs in their region, as well as interact with at least one of the neighbouring Centres of Excellence for near real time image discussions and possibly joint lectures.

14. CM-5 strongly supported the WMO Space Programme activities and urged space agencies and WMO Members to consider possible funding sources and opportunities towards the purchase of 200 notebooks for the high profile global training event scheduled for 2006. The session noted the annual training events on satellite processing, interpretation and use in operational and research activities, organized by SRC Planeta, supported by EUMETSAT and WMO, for Baltic countries and other countries of the former USSR.

15. CM-5 discussed the concept for an International Geostationary Laboratory (IGeoLaB). In order to demonstrate the concept, two test proposal were described. The IGeoLab concept was based on partnership and sharing of the benefit of a geostationary demonstration mission across several space development agencies, operators of operational meteorological satellites, and satellite data users.

16. CM-5 strongly supported the IGeoLaB concept and in particular agreed that IGeoLab: (1) represented an expansion of the existing agreement for open sharing of remote sensing data to

include sharing development of new remote sensing capabilities; (2) would speed up the realization of and familiarization with new measurements, (3) would offer resource savings through partnering and thus open opportunities for demonstrations in several areas simultaneously, (4) would not constrain industrial developments for operational systems in any Space Agency procurements, and (5) most importantly would assure successful transfer from research to operations in the most cost effective and timely fashion.

17. In summary, CM-5 felt that the IGeoLab was of utmost importance to CM space agencies and WMO Members as well. There was strong support to further the discussion on the concept both for the long-term in general as well as for the two test proposals in the shorter term.